



CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

2418 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
8425 WEST 3rd STREET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90048

202-225-3976
213-651-1040

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Howard Elinson
(213) 651-1040

October 7, 1981

WAXMAN ALARMED AT SADAT'S DEATH

Congressman Henry A. Waxman, one of Israel's strongest congressional supporters, expressed "alarm and deep anxiety at the death of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat". Waxman said, "the passing of Sadat cannot help but make the quest for a lasting peace in the Middle East more difficult." Waxman praised Sadat as a realist.

"I met with President Sadat on a number of occasions, unlike so many other Arab leaders, he was completely in touch with reality. He recognized the fact that Israel is here to stay. He realized his number one problem was coping with the extreme poverty of his own country; he knew that economic development for Egypt was completely incompatible with belligerency towards Israel."

Waxman expressed the belief that the assassination of Sadat would have a substantial impact on the issue of whether or not to sell AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia.

"The killing of Sadat -- a friend of America -- will drive home to members of congress, the fact that the future of any government in the Middle East (other than Israel) is always in doubt. We do not know who may be plotting against the Saudi regime. We face the danger that by the time the AWACS planes are actually delivered the government in Saudi Arabia will be out of power or on the brink of collapse. Just as we cannot predict who will replace Sadat, neither can we predict what would happen if the Saudi royal family were to fall."

Waxman expressed the hope that Sadat's successor will be able to withstand pressure from extremists in the Arab world, and would be both able and anxious to continue the peace process begun at Camp David.

###